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## Significance

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## Third Place

**Now!**

*i close to nervous breakdown  
need rest relaxation; need a drink  
saw her again last week.*

*god knows how many times in dreams.*

*my 'hand's shaking — can't find the keys  
left the password in Mercury beneath frozen snow  
too cold to know*

*saw her again last week.*

*the smile still shakes me, catches my breath  
i need her more than she could know  
and we pass in broiling hallways*

*say something nothing: hello*

*the brain cannot thrive on nonsense  
must not overload  
MUST NOT OVERLOAD.*

*she's lurking in some vapid hallway.*

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Paul Adams Dunk

## The Daily Planet

*Caroline  
every time i see you  
i see you; sand fills my mouth  
words drool out of my eyes  
in you're one with eyes that shine like sparkle  
stars engulf the moon; i am earth  
FACE FULLA DESERT FACE FULLA OCEAN  
Caroline  
every time i see you  
i say nothing . . . you echo.*

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## It Began A Whisper

*It's a cheeseburger Friday  
i am sitting here with catsup on my face  
napkins on the floor  
don't care no more.*

*Everyday's a cheeseburger Friday  
i am belching dehydrated onions constantly  
even while i sleep.  
Who cares who keeps the count of days?*

*i don't, but i seem endless . . .  
just end me in my sleep some cheeseburger night.*

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## Honorable Mention

### Significance

*My friend,  
Or so I call you,  
Though at times I manipulate you,  
As if you were but an object,  
Put here to do my bidding.  
Your only purpose to fit my expectations  
In order that your actions  
Will fulfill my every need.  
Someone to mold into a replica of myself,  
So I won't feel so alone,  
In a world devoid of meaning.*

*My lover,  
Or so i'd like to treat you,  
Even when i'm using you  
Merely as an instrument to obtain climax.  
When you become fingers and a tongue  
To stimulate my desire.  
Then a soothing voice and gentle hands  
In the wake of the trembling aftermath.  
Any body with arms to enfold me,  
When the faceless crowd threatens  
To overwhelm me.*

*My self,  
Or so I would have you be.  
Support for my every contradictory idea.  
Total compassion, unconditional acceptance.  
Always believing.  
Knowing my every need  
And therefore it's resolution.  
Being what I am,  
You could feel and do all these things,  
And serve as a reflection  
When I look in your eyes,  
Of my own much sought after significance.*

Kathleen McClellan

### Too Bad You Couldn't Make It

<i>I thought of you today as the water seemed to fondle me in my bath subtle pressure gently swelling against my thighs your calloused hands warm streams tr i c kli ng down your fingers tracing paths between my breasts as the steam rising wisps each caress envelope me in your embrace</i>	<i>lapping rivulets of wetness like your tongue against my skin in a time not long ago when the hours seemed to slow then fade away each soft touch a smile turning just in time to catch a sigh then round again trembling with the heat that seemed to chill then quiet as a whisper peace descends Yes, I thought of you today and for once there wasn't any pain</i>
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Kathleen McClellan